Mineral Water

4092. PROF. ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of making mineral water by the silver ionisation process has been banned internationally due to its ill effects on health;

(b) if so, the names of the companies manufacturing mineral water by silver ionization process;

(c) whether there is any proposal to ban this process; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER SOF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA). (a) to (d). After considering all the relevant toxicological factors, World Health Organisation has prescribed permissible limit of 0.05 mg/1 of silver ion in drinking water. The Bureau of Indian Standards Code in this behalf conforms to the permissible limit prescribed by the World Health Organisation.

Helicopter Service to North–Eastern Region

4093. SHRI LAETA UMBREY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce the helicopter services to the hilly places in the North–eastern region.

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) when this service is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF CIIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). There is at present no specific project proposal to commence helicopter services for the North–Eastern Region. The possibility of starting such services would depend upon firming up of technoeconomic viability.

Percentage of Commission to Vendors in Railways

4094. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the percentage of commission given to commission vendors of railway catering;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The commission payable to vendors is linked with the selling price of various items as well as the quantum of sale. The commission of vendors automatically goes up with the increase in the selling price of items and the quantum of sales. The selling prices are periodically reviewed.

[*Translation*]

Train from Bhopal to Bombay

4095. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whethe the Government propose to